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Bellevue, Washington 98006

January 14, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

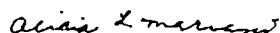
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

In November of 2001 Microsoft and the Justice Department reached a settlement in the antitrust case that had been in progress for more than three years. I am contacting you to let you know I was pleased to see that this settlement was reached, as were many other Americans.

I am concerned that special interests with anti Microsoft leanings will try to derail this settlement. They will tell the public that this settlement will change nothing and Microsoft should be compelled back to court. However this settlement will create many changes as well as end this expensive case. This settlement will give computer makers flexibility to install non-Microsoft software. Additionally, this settlement will compel Microsoft to reveal an unprecedented amount of secret design code to competitors.

Without a doubt this settlement will bring fundamental change to the IT industry. Furthermore this settlement will end this case at the federal level.

Sincerely,



Alicia Mariano